

Exhibit C to Application
Kisber Testimony

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Docket No. 2022-____-E

Docket No. 2022-____-E

In the Matter of:

Application of SR Lambert I, LLC for a Certificate of
Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience
and Necessity for the Construction and Operation of a
100 MW Solar Facility in Georgetown County, South
Carolina Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-33-10 et.
seq., and Request to Proceed with Initial Construction
Work, S.C. Code Ann. § 58-33-110(7).

In the Matter of:

Application of SR Lambert II, LLC for a Certificate of
Environmental Compatibility and Public Convenience
and Necessity for the Construction and Operation of a
100 MW Solar Facility in Georgetown County, South
Carolina Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-33-10 et.
seq., and Request to Proceed with Initial Construction
Work, S.C. Code Ann. § 58-33-110(7).

**PRE-FILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MATTHEW KISBER ON BEHALF OF
SR LAMBERT I, LLC AND LAMBERT II, LLC**

March 3, 2022

1 **Q. Please state your name, your position and your business address.**

2 **A.** My name is Matthew Kisber. I am the co-founder, former CEO, and current Board
3 Chairman for Silicon Ranch Corporation (“Silicon Ranch”), the owner and developer of
4 the SR Lambert I, LLC (“Lambert I”) and SR Lambert II, LLC (“Lambert II”) solar projects
5 (collectively, the “Projects”) being planned and proposed for South Carolina. The SR
6 Projects are the subject of this application. My business address is 222 2nd Avenue South,
7 Suite 1900, Nashville, TN 37201. I can be reached by email at
8 matt.kisber@siliconranch.com or telephone at 615-577-4606.

9 **Q. Have you previously provided testimony to the South Carolina Public Service**
10 **Commission?**

11 **A.** No, I have not.

12 **Q. Briefly describe your education, professional background, and your professional**
13 **affiliation, including with Silicon Ranch.**

14 **A.** I earned a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Vanderbilt University. I have been
15 in my current position as the Chairman of Silicon Ranch’s Board since 2019. Prior to that,
16 I served as the company’s CEO and, along with its current CEO Reagan Farr, founded
17 Silicon Ranch in 2011. Before joining Silicon Ranch, I served eight years as Tennessee
18 Commissioner of Economic Development, responsible for developing the infrastructure
19 and resources of Tennessee communities and expanding the state’s business friendly
20 economic climate, while attracting new industries and helping existing industries grow.
21 Under my leadership Tennessee companies created more than 230,000 new jobs and
22 invested over \$34 billion in new capital. I led the effort that brought Nissan North

1 America's and Asurion headquarters, Amazon, Volkswagen Auto Manufacturing, and
2 many other companies to Tennessee. I served in the Tennessee House of Representatives,
3 serving ten consecutive two-year terms prior to voluntarily leaving office in November
4 2002. During my years in the state legislature, I served as chairman of the House Finance,
5 Ways and Means Committee, as well as special joint committees of the House and
6 Senate. While serving as a part-time legislator, I was employed by First Tennessee Bank,
7 where I held the position of Vice President of Business Development.

8
9 I currently serve on the board of directors of the Adventure Science Center, Nashville
10 Public Library Foundation, Studio Bank, Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council
11 and is Immediate Past Chairman of the Tennessee Business Roundtable.

12 **Q. On whose behalf are you providing testimony today?**

13 **A.** I am providing this testimony on behalf of Lambert I and Lambert II companies, as the
14 applicants seeking approval of the Projects. I have been authorized by Silicon Ranch and
15 the applicants, Lambert I and Lambert II, to give this testimony on behalf of both applicants
16 and am competent to do so.

17 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this Proceeding?**

18 **A.** Lambert I and Lambert II are applying for Certificates of Environmental Compatibility
19 Public Convenience and Necessity ("CEPCN") to each construct separate 100-megawatt
20 AC ("MW") solar projects to be located in Georgetown County. Stated otherwise, the SR
21 Projects being planned and proposed are two separate projects offering approximately the
22 same capacity: 100 MW for Lambert I and 100 MW for Lambert II. The primary purpose

1 of my testimony is to provide background concerning Silicon Ranch, an initial overview
2 of the Lambert I and Lambert II projects, and introduce the strategic benefits, public
3 convenience, and necessity of the Projects for South Carolina. I will also address the South
4 Carolina Public Service Authority's ("Santee Cooper") and Central Electric Power
5 Cooperative, Inc.'s ("Central") participation and role in the development and eventual
6 utilization of the Projects.

7 **Q. You testified that Silicon Ranch is the parent company of the applicants. Please**
8 **describe Silicon Ranch's background and experience relevant to the proposed**
9 **Projects?**

10 **A.** Silicon Ranch Corporation ("Silicon Ranch" or "SR") is a Delaware corporation also
11 headquartered at the same address as Lambert I and Lambert II. Silicon Ranch, through its
12 subsidiaries and affiliates, is a leading U.S. solar developer, owner, and operator of utility-
13 scale solar projects. The company's portfolio includes more than 2.1 gigawatts of solar
14 photovoltaic ("PV") systems that are contracted, under construction, or operating, with an
15 additional 2 gigawatts more in development. Silicon Ranch currently has more than 135
16 solar facilities operating in 15 states. Silicon Ranch is particularly proud of its pioneering
17 role in the development of the solar industry in the Southeast, which includes development
18 of the first large-scale solar projects in Tennessee, Mississippi, Georgia, and Arkansas.

19
20 Silicon Ranch brings a seasoned approach to its development process and a record of
21 successful project execution. Since it began operations in 2011, Silicon Ranch has
22 successfully executed every project for every PPA it has signed. Another distinction is that

1 unlike many other solar developers, Silicon Ranch and its subsidiaries own and operate the
2 entire portfolio. This long-term ownership means that Solar Ranch is deeply committed to
3 the partners and communities it serves, and stands behind the daily performance of its
4 facilities. As a long-term owner, Silicon Ranch has a strong interest in the continuous
5 improvement and sustainability of its projects. For example, Silicon Ranch has pioneered
6 industry-leading land management practices aimed at enhancing the environmental, social,
7 and economic benefits of projects for local communities. Silicon Ranch's innovation and
8 expertise truly distinguish it as a solar PV developer, owner, and operator.

9
10 Silicon Ranch's expertise is the product of its people and leaders. Primary among those
11 leaders is Mr. Regan Farr, Silicon Ranch's President & CEO, who co-founded the company
12 with me and former Tennessee Governor, Philip Bredesen. Mr. Farr is responsible for all
13 ongoing and future operations, as well as the execution of Silicon Ranch's strategic growth
14 plan. Under his leadership, Silicon Ranch has successfully commissioned every project it
15 has contracted since its beginning in 2011. Mr. Farr is an experienced executive in the
16 public sector as well, having served as Tennessee's Commissioner of Revenue from 2006
17 to 2011. Supporting Mr. Farr is a deep bench of industry-leading experts in the
18 development, construction, management, and operation of large-scale solar PV projects—
19 just like the Lambert I and Lambert II projects proposed here.¹

20 **Q. Where are the Lambert I and Lambert II projects to be located?**

¹ A complete list of Silicon Ranch leaders is available at <https://www.siliconranch.com/about/#leadership>.

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1 output. Something notable regarding this RFP was the requirement that developers, under
2 the PPAs, would be responsible for all aspects of developing the projects, including
3 planning, financing, implementing, operating, maintaining, insuring, and even retiring the
4 project—in other words, candidates would have to have the expertise and ability to take
5 care of everything from start to eventual retirement many years later.

6
7 As discussed above, this type of complete project planning, implementation, and ownership
8 is a Silicon Ranch specialty. Silicon Ranch submitted proposals for the proposed Projects
9 and, based on a competitive process, was selected by Santee Cooper and Central to move
10 forward with development. Upon successful development, applicants Lambert I and
11 Lambert II will operate and own the Projects and the energy generated, which they will
12 both sell to Santee Cooper and Central per the terms of PPAs.

13 **Q. When are the Projects planned to be on-line and delivering power?**

14 **A.** Per the RFP, projects are expected to deliver power not later than January 1, 2024.
15 However, Silicon Ranch anticipates substantial completion of construction for the Projects
16 and power delivery by as early as Q2 of 2024.

17 **Q. Please explain the need for the Projects.**

18 **A.** Based on both the particular resource plans of Santee Cooper and Central and the generally
19 anticipated growth in demand for clean, renewable solar power, Solar Ranch believes that
20 there are strong market conditions for the Lambert I and Lambert II projects. First, there
21 are strong market conditions that support sustainable off-take by Santee Cooper and
22 Central. Demand for renewable energy is expected to increase in South Carolina over the

lifetimes of the Projects. Evidence of this expected growth is found in Santee Cooper's resource plans, which outline a long-term plan to add an additional 1,000 MW of solar energy by 2032, even after Santee Cooper adds the initial 500 MW to which Lambert I and Lambert II are contributing. Additional solar capacity will allow Santee Cooper and Central to meet anticipated load growth in the coming years, while simultaneously replacing older, carbon-based energy sources from its portfolios.

Q. What are the off-take plans for the Projects?

A. Under the terms of the RFP, Lambert I and Lambert II are to source power to Santee Cooper and/or Central. As such, by virtue of having been selected through the RFP, the Projects will sell power under long-term PPAs to Santee Cooper and Central. So, the demand and off-take plans for Lambert I and Lambert II projects are in place.

Q. Does Public Convenience and Necessity justify construction of the Lambert I and Lambert II projects?

A. Yes. Santee Cooper, in its 2020 Integrated Resource Plan, adopted a preferred resource plan for meeting growing energy needs that also incorporates innovative technologies, improves operating efficiency, reduces environmental impacts, and results in lower overall cost. Pursuant to those goals, Santee Cooper selected to work with Silicon Ranch and to purchase power from the proposed Lambert I and Lambert II projects. By its design and nature, the Projects will provide clean renewable power with minimal impacts to the environment. As described by Santee Cooper and Central in their IRPs and in the solar RFP, the best option for beginning to meet those objectives is the addition of PV solar. The

1 Lambert I and Lambert II projects are a key part of implementing Santee Cooper's PRP
2 and providing cost-effective clean energy to consumers.

3 **Q. When can the applicants begin construction work?**

4 **A.** As soon as the Commission approves, Lambert I and Lambert II are poised to move forward
5 with construction. All other regulatory permissions needed to begin work are in place or
6 will be soon. Our construction and financing partners are similarly ready to move forward.
7 Applicants can begin work without delay once authorized.

8 **Q. Will you be able to update your testimony in the future, especially if there is new**
9 **information, either through written or live testimony at a hearing?**

10 **A.** Yes. On behalf of applicants, I reserve the right to revise and add to my testimony via
11 supplemental, amended and/or live testimony, especially if new information becomes
12 available or known.

13 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

14 **A.** Yes. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my initial written testimony in this matter
15 on behalf of Silicon Ranch and the Lambert projects.